



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	School Wellness
Code	246
Status	Active
Adopted	February 6, 2018
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### **Purpose**

Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn. The Joint Operating Committee is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education and promotion, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

### **Authority**

The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy based on the recommendations of the Wellness Committee and in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations.[1][2][3]

To ensure the health and well-being of all students, the Joint Operating Committee establishes that the school shall provide to students:

1. A comprehensive nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements.
2. Access at reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutrition guidelines.
3. Curriculum and programs for appropriate career and technical labs and academic courses that are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible to monitor the school's programs and curriculum to ensure compliance with related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.[2][3]

The designated building administrator shall annually report to the Executive Director or designee regarding compliance in his/her building.[3]

Staff members responsible for programs related to school wellness shall report to the Executive Director or designee regarding the status of such programs.

The Executive Director or designee shall annually report to the Joint Operating Committee on the school's compliance with law and policies related to school wellness. The report may include:

1. Evaluation of food services program.
2. Review of all foods and beverages sold in the school for compliance with established nutrition guidelines.
3. Listing of activities and programs conducted to promote nutrition and physical activity.
4. Recommendations for policy and/or program revisions.
5. Suggestions for improvement in specific areas.
6. Feedback received from school staff, students, parents/guardians, community members and the Wellness Committee.

The Executive Director or designee and the established Wellness Committee shall conduct an assessment at least once every three (3) years on the contents and implementation of this policy as part of a continuous improvement process to strengthen the policy and ensure implementation. This triennial assessment shall be made available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner and include:[2][3]

1. The extent to which the school is in compliance with law and policies related to school wellness.
2. The extent to which this policy compares to model wellness policies.
3. A description of the progress made by the school in attaining the goals of this policy.

At least once every three (3) years, the school shall update or modify this policy as needed, based on the results of the most recent triennial assessment and/or as school and community needs and priorities change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information and technologies emerge; and new federal or state guidance or standards are issued.[3]

The school shall annually inform and update the public, including parents/guardians, students, and others in the community, about the contents, updates and implementation of this policy via the school website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods. This annual notification shall include information on how to access the School Wellness policy; information about the most recent triennial assessment; information on how to participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the School Wellness policy; and a means of contacting Wellness Committee leadership.[2][3]

## **Guidelines**

### Recordkeeping

The school shall retain records documenting compliance with the requirements of the School Wellness policy, which shall include:[3][4]

1. The written School Wellness policy.
2. Documentation demonstrating that the school has informed the public, on an annual basis, about the contents of the School Wellness policy and any updates to the policy.
3. Documentation of efforts to review and update the School Wellness policy, including who is involved in the review and methods used by the school to inform the public of their ability to participate in the review.
4. Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the School Wellness policy and notification of the assessment results to the public.

### Wellness Committee

The school shall establish a Wellness Committee comprised of, but not necessarily limited to, at least one (1) of each of the following: Joint Operating Committee member, school administrator, food service representative, student, parent/guardian, school health professional, and member of the public. It shall be the goal that committee membership will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.[2]

The Wellness Committee shall serve as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and shall be responsible for developing, implementing and periodically reviewing and updating a School Wellness policy that complies with law to recommend to the Joint Operating Committee for adoption.

The Wellness Committee shall review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques in establishing goals for nutrition education and promotion, physical activity and other school based activities that promote student wellness as part of the policy development and revision process.[3]

#### Nutrition Education

Nutrition education will be provided by the sending school districts within the sequential, comprehensive health education program in accordance with curriculum regulations and the academic standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.[5][6][7]

Nutrition education shall encourage and support healthy eating by students. Promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement.

#### Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

Consistent nutrition messages shall be disseminated and displayed throughout the school.

#### Physical Activity

Physical activity shall not be used or withheld solely as a form of punishment.

#### Physical Education

A sequential physical education program consistent with curriculum regulations and Health, Safety and Physical Education academic standards shall be developed and implemented. All district students must participate in physical education. Physical education will be offered by the sending districts.[6][7][9]

Physical activity shall not be used or withheld solely as a form of punishment.

#### Other School Based Activities

Drinking water shall be available and accessible to students, without restriction and at no cost to the student, at all meal periods and throughout the school day.[10][11]

Nutrition professionals who meet hiring criteria established by the school and in compliance with federal regulations shall administer the school meals program. Professional development and continuing education shall be provided for nutrition staff, as required by federal regulations.[8][12][13][14]

The school shall provide adequate space, as defined by the school, for eating and serving school meals.

Students shall be provided a clean and safe meal environment.

Students shall be provided adequate time to eat: twenty (20) minutes sit down time for lunch.

Meal periods shall be scheduled at appropriate hours, as required by federal regulations and as defined by the school.[10]

## Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods/Beverages at the School

All foods and beverages available in the school during the school day shall be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing obesity.

Foods and beverages provided through the National School Lunch shall comply with established federal nutrition standards.[10][11][12][13]

### Competitive Foods -

Competitive foods available for sale shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School). These standards shall apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold to students, which may include, but are not limited to: a la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores, snack carts and fundraisers.[3][15][16]

Competitive foods are defined as foods and beverages offered or sold to students on school campus during the school day, which are not part of the reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.

For purposes of this policy, **school campus** means any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that students may access during the school day.[3][15]

For purposes of this policy, **school day** means the period from midnight before school begins until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day.[3][15]

The school may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that the restrictions are not inconsistent with federal requirements.[15]

### Fundraiser Exemptions -

Fundraising activities held during the school day involving the sale of competitive foods shall be limited to foods that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, unless an exemption is approved in accordance with applicable Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations.[17]

The school may allow a limited number of exempt fundraisers as permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education each school year: up to ten (10) exempt fundraisers. Exempt fundraisers are fundraisers in which competitive foods are available for sale to students that do not meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.[15]

The school shall establish administrative regulations to implement fundraising activities, including procedures for requesting a fundraiser exemption.

### Non-Sold Competitive Foods -

Non-sold competitive foods available to students, which may include but are not limited to foods and beverages offered as rewards and incentives, at classroom parties and celebrations, or as shared classroom snacks, shall meet or exceed the standards established by the school.

If the offered competitive foods do not meet or exceed the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, the following standards shall apply:

1. Rewards and Incentives:

Food may be used as an incentive or reward subject to administrative approval.

2. Classroom Parties and Celebrations:

Classroom parties/celebrations with food/beverages shall be limited to no more than one (1) per month in each classroom. Administration may limit the number further based upon administrative regulations.

## Marketing/Contracting -

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the established federal nutrition standards (USDA Smart Snacks in School) and comply with established Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations.[3][15]

## Management of Food Allergies in the School

The school shall establish Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations to address food allergy management in the school in order to:[19]

1. Reduce and/or eliminate the likelihood of severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.
2. Ensure a rapid and effective response in case of a severe or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. Protect the rights of students by providing them, through necessary accommodations when required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

## Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1422.1
2. 42 U.S.C. 1758b
3. 7 CFR 210.31
4. 7 CFR 210.15
5. 24 P.S. 1513
6. Pol. 102
7. Pol. 105
8. Pol. 808
9. 24 P.S. 1512.1
10. 7 CFR 210.10
11. 7 CFR 220.8
12. 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq
13. 42 U.S.C. 1773
14. 7 CFR 210.30
15. 7 CFR 210.11
16. 7 CFR 220.12
17. Pol. 229
18. 24 P.S. 504.1
- 24 P.S. 1337.1
- 24 P.S. 1422.3
- 24 P.S. 1850.1
- P.L. 111-296
- 7 CFR Part 210
- 7 CFR Part 220
- Pol. 103

